

45th Division News

November, 1995

Published in support of the 45th Division Association and 45th Division Museum.

THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS

WILLIAM O. DARBY

He was more famous for his role as commander of the Ranger Battalions, better known as Darby's Rangers, but Colonel William Orlando Darby was also a Thunderbird for a short period at Anzio when he commanded the 179th Infantry Regiment.

A native of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Darby entered the U.S. Military Academy where he was average in his academic studies and a cadet captain in his first class year. Upon graduation he became an artillery officer. At West Point he was always "neat as a pin," showed leadership "without giving the appearance of effort," and "never treated anyone harshly or spoke unkindly to or about anyone."

While stationed in Northern Ireland in mid-1942, Darby was selected to command a Ranger Battalion to be created and activated. He trained his Rangers realistically and took the First Ranger Battalion ashore at Arzew near Oran in the Allied landings in North Africa code-named "Torch." They were highly successful. The Rangers saw other action in the North African campaign.

Darby received authority to activate two more Ranger battalions, which he did, and all three invaded Sicily attached to the 1st Infantry Division. Darby's Rangers also saw action at Salerno and the Winter Line in Italy.

The Rangers joined the 3d Infantry Division in the assault landing at Anzio. On January 30, in conjunction with the 3d Division in an attack on Cisterna, the 1st and 3rd Ranger Battalions were practically annihilated. Of 767 who infiltrated to Cisterna, only six returned; the rest were either captured or killed. The Ranger battalions were dissolved after this crushing incident and the remaining troops integrated into other units.

On February 18, 1944, Colonel William O. Darby relieved Col. Malcom Kammerer and assumed command of the 179th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Division in the midst of the most intense fighting on the beachhead. He remained in this position until April 3, 1944, when he was returned to the United States and assigned to the Operations Division of the War Department general staff.

In April, 1945, Darby was again returned to Italy. When the assistant division commander of the 10th Mountain Division was wounded, Darby took his place.

On the afternoon of April 30, three days before the Germans surrendered in Italy, as he was standing outside a regimental command post talking to several officers and men, a single round from an 88-mm gun killed him. On that same day his name was listed as a nominee for Brigadier General. Because of his outstanding combat record, William Darby was promoted posthumously to Brigadier General. Three months after his 34th birthday, Darby became the only Army officer posthumously promoted to star rank during the war.

An outstanding officer and natural leader, William O. Darby exemplified the true spirit of the Thunderbird in every respect. He led by example rather than by pointing the direction and staying behind.

He was wounded three times and decorated ten. Among his decorations were the Distinguished Service Cross, the British DSO, the French Croix de Guerre, and the Russian Order of Kutuzov.

COMBAT CHRONICLES (KOREA)

May 1953: The division continued its primary mission of defending and improving its positions along Line MINNESOTA (MLR) while occupying the left center sector of the I US Corps area.

The division was deployed with the 179th Infantry Regiment on the left, 14th Philippine Infantry Battalion in the center, 180th Infantry Regiment on the right. The 279th Infantry Regiment continued to guard PW's at KOJE-DO. Division artillery and 245th Tank Battalion continued to support the division as well as give support to adjacent units.

Patrol clashes continued to be the primary combat activity in the division sector. 14th Philippine Infantry units encountered the largest group of enemy during the period when on 28 May, a security patrol engaged an estimated 75 enemy. The enemy withdrew after a 5-minute firefight with 2 enemy KIA.

Operation Plan BIG STAR POWER, a plan of withdrawal under pressure from Line MINNESOTA (MLR) to Line KANSAS, a secondary defense line, in event of a successful enemy attack and penetration was formulated during this period.

Battle casualties for May-44.

June 1953: The division continued its primary mission of defense and improvement of its portion of Line MINNESOTA (MLR). On 4 June the 279th Infantry was released from KCCMZ control and moved to rejoin the division. On 22 June, the 279th Infantry was released from X US Corps control and on 24 June it relieved the 180th Infantry in the right sector of the division.

On 1 June, when two enemy reinforced infantry companies attempted to penetrate the main battle positions near SANDBAG CASTLE, they were repulsed by elements of the 180th Infantry after a four hour and fifty minute firefight. Enemy casualties were 23 estimated KIA and 110 estimated WIA.

Battle casualties for June-72.

July 1953: During the period 1-5 July, the division conducted a movement westward from its PAEAM-IHYON-NI sector and relieved elements of the 7th ROK and 20th ROK divisions in the TONGSONGOL-PAEAM sector on the left flank of X US Corps. The division maintained an active defense of this sector until 2200 on 27 July when a "Cease-fire" was effected. The division began a withdrawal from MLR positions to new Post Armistice Main Battle Positions where it conducted training in maintain readiness for immediate combat.

At the beginning of the month, the division was deployed along the HEARTBREAK RIDGE-NO-NAME RIDGE-SANDBAG CASTLE sector. At 2200 on 27 July, the division ceased fire and began preparations to withdraw to the area behind the Demilitarized Zone.

Battle casualties for July-513.

50TH ANNUAL REUNION

The 50th Annual Reunion was conducted 21-23 September 1995 at the Radisson Inn, 401 South Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK. A total of 527 members registered for the reunion, 205 were veterans of World War II, 303 were veterans of the Korean War and 19 were Post Korea members of the Division.

There were a total of 132 residents of Oklahoma and 395 residents of other states. **This equates to 25% Oklahomans and 75% out of state members.** Oklahoma veterans have improved their attendance by 1% over last years attendance, however there is still a great deal of room for improvement.

Attendance by organization was as follows: Infantry; 157-6, 179-195, 180-108, 279-20. Special Troops-99. Artillery-99, including 160-18, 171-47 and 145 AAA-21.

150 members paid the "Registration Fee" of \$25.00 and did not otherwise participate in planned activities of the 45th Division Association. Breakout as follows: Special Troops; 25, 179 Inf; 46, 180 inf; 40, artillery; 39. This indicates there are still some other organized activities being conducted during the same time period. If these individuals are staying at the Radisson, this may be a reason that members desiring to participate in reunion activities cannot obtain a room at the "Inn".

The Friday night dinner was attended by 450 members and their guests. 180 Thunderbird Ladies attended the Saturday morning Breakfast Buffet and 650 plus persons attended the Saturday night banquet.

Korean War Veteran William B. "Bill" Gustafson was our speaker for the banquet. Bill was a Platoon Sergeant in Company B, 179th Infantry. He was severely wounded while on a night patrol and evacuated to the US where he spent a year in Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco, CA. He is currently serving as a State Senator from District 22 which encompasses his home town of El Reno, OK. Bill continues to strongly support National Guard programs in the State Legislature and we are proud to call him one of our own.

The Friday night Country and Western Dance and the Big Band Dance on Saturday night were well attended. The dance floor seemed to be a little more crowded on Friday night.

Debra Campbell did another outstanding job as chairperson of "Ladies Activities". This includes the Breakfast Buffet, table decorations for Friday and Saturday nights and the Craft show. Debra has a volunteer group of about ten women who assist her as hostesses for the Ladies Activities, however, she personally does most of the tedious work in making the table decorations. We owe her a great big "THANKS" for a job well done.

Preston Willoughby and his crew did another great job of operating the association "Hospitality Room". The "grazing" table was filled with tasty food and it was always difficult to find a place to squeeze in and participate. Mike Jackson has volunteered to serve as host of this activity for next year.

Jimmy Jones and Tom Meyers and their Welcoming and Transportation committees with all of their congenial committee members did another outstanding job of meeting members at the airport and getting everyone where they wanted to go.

Most units/organizations meeting in conjunction with the association plan their activities on Thursday night, however, there are still some who schedule conflicting events on Friday and/or Saturday nights. This creates problems for our Registration Committee who are very busy processing the 500 plus members and registering those who did not preregister. We have no information on the other events and this usually causes a great deal of distress for those seeking information that we cannot provide. We will continue our policy of not providing transporta-

tion to other activities on Friday and Saturday nights.

Our two American Red Cross Representatives from World War II were extended special invitations to attend the reunion. Betty Jones Robinson and her husband, Kenneth, were in attendance, however, Sarah Ann Stauffer was unable to attend due to a recent illness. Betty Resides in Nevada and Sally in Pennsylvania.

Echo Wilson, manager of the association Gift Shop, reported the gross sales during the reunion totaled \$11,517.00 which is a record for sales during reunions. Addition of the 50th Reunion commemorative jackets helped with attaining this record sales.

A great Memorial Service was conducted on Saturday morning by Chaplain Charles Richmond. As usual COL Richmond gave a wonderful address followed by a video prepared by David Walk which consisted of WWII and Korea active duty and combat photos with the names of deceased members since the last reunion scrolled across the bottom of the screen. Our hats are off to all who participated in this moving ceremony.

Several tragic events occurred during the reunion. Robert Sommers, Mission, TX suffered a heart attack and was pronounced DOA at the hospital. This was Robert's first reunion and he was very anxious to meet some of his former buddies from Company F, 179th Infantry during World War II. Harold L. Weishuhn, Saginaw, MI was hospitalized at Hillcrest Hospital with a heart problem. He was originally scheduled to be released on Wednesday 27 September, however, his condition continued to deteriorate and he passed away on 27 September. William B. Frazier, Peoria, AZ was hospitalized at Baptist Memorial Hospital and released Sunday, 24 September. Lavon Skoog, Brainerd, MN wife of Clinton Skoog, was hospitalized at St. Anthony. She was released from the hospital Tuesday 26 September.

We have received several complaints since the reunion, mostly concerning the problem of confirmed reservations not being honored. One complaint was received concerning the fact that there was no elevator service to accommodate wheelchair bound persons. We hope that everyone understands that the association cannot completely solve either of these problems. The Radisson Inn is the only hotel in Oklahoma City that accommodate our numbers from a room and food service standpoint. A suggestion was made in the business meeting that we conduct the reunion at a location different than Oklahoma City. This would be impossible because of the loss of support of volunteers (about 60), transportation and other amenities.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be conducted at the 45th Infantry Division Museum, 2145 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK at 10:00 am, **FRIDAY** 10 November 1995.

A Helicopter flyover will initiate the ceremonies, followed by firing of a salute by the Hotchkiss Mountain Gun manned by Gene Church and crew, a massing of the colors, posting of the Colors by the Governors Honor Guard, the National Anthem by the 145th Army Band and a medley of patriotic songs by Jim and Ina Howell.

The Master of Ceremonies will be Brigadier General Charles V. Wheeler, former Assistant Adjutant General.

Governor Frank Keating will be the principal speaker and will be introduced by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Norman Lamb.

Presentation of the wreath will be accomplished by Mrs. Wynema Graves, President of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Gold Star Wives accompanied by COI Tom Feuerborn.

The Museum Events Committee will serve refreshments at the conclusion of the ceremony.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for helping me get to the Baptist Hospital after my husband was taken there during the recent reunion with a possible heart attack. My husband's condition was not as serious as thought, no heart attack, and after a two day hospital stay we made it back to Phoenix. He is now under his regular doctor's care.

A special thanks to the Transportation volunteers. Hope to see you next year.

**MRS. WILLIAM B. "TRUDY" FRAZIER, 10410 W. DIANA AVE,
PEORIA, AZ 85345-7421.**

★★★★★★★★★★

It was a privilege one year ago to write the 45th Division Association to compliment you for the hospitality at the reunion that my brother and I attended with our father, Harold Weishuhn.

It is with sadness, this year, that I must tell you the Captain Harold L. Weishuhn, Company B, 179th Infantry, World War II passed away on 27 September 1995 at the Hillcrest Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

As you probably know, father had a heart attack at this year's reunion. Even though he was not in the best of health, he felt very strongly that he had to attend this years reunion to see those men who he served with on this 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

He was very proud of all the men he served with and had friendships with those men that could only be forged by what they went through together during those years. I honestly believe that he could not have passed on in a better place than being with those he shared so much with. We will miss him very much.

I would like to extend my thanks to the association, the Radisson Hotel personnel and all the members for all they did for his wife, Lilian, after father became ill. Their helpfulness and kindness to her during that difficult time is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Rex Wilson, who picked up my brother and I at the airport when we arrived.

I would appreciate you extending a membership in the association for my mother for the balance of my father's paid up dues. She would like to continue receiving the 45th Division News so she can keep up with the many friends she has made at the reunions.

As a Vietnam veteran, I know what it is that makes Comrades in Arms be there in time of need. Thank you, again, for all that you did for my father.

**HARVEY L. WEISHUHN, 402 N. OAKLEY, SAGINAW, MI
48602-4457**

★★★★★★★★★★

My husband Dan and I enjoyed the 50th Annual Reunion and the many friends and people we met there. I am enclosing a copy of the words to the flag folding ceremony used at funerals and patriotic functions. As the Americanism Representative we have many programs in Port St. Lucie which reach our youths in High Schools, Boy Scout meetings and other patriotic programs at our Memorial Park.

Our beautiful Memorial Park is the latest accomplishment of the United Veterans. My husband was on the planning committee; we thought it was ironic that the closing phrase of the Chaplain's presentation at the memorial service used the phrase and quote: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we

gave today.

Dan presented this same quote to be used on the bronze plaque at the base of the Army flag, it was accepted and from today and forever, visitors will read this very appropriate and moving quotation.

We pray God will bless you with your work, and all Americans who are working so hard to maintain our freedoms and a decent American way of life.

**HELEN A. WITTS, 1026 SW DARTMOUTH AVE, PORT ST.
LUCIE, FL 34953-8516.**

★★★★★★★★★★

Thank you for the beautiful plant. I will do my best to keep it alive. I will miss my husband very much. We had 32 happy years together. He left this world just like he wanted to; Fast. He was so afraid of lingering.

He looked forward so much to this reunion. He just knew he was going to find someone he served with, but from what I have been told, I guess this did not come true.

Maybe he will find them where he is now. I sincerely hope so.

**BETTY SOMMERS, 513 N. LOS EBANOS ROAD #215, MIS-
SION, TX 78572.**

★★★★★★★★★★

My wife and I attended the 45th Infantry Division Reunion held recently in Oklahoma City. I served with this fine unit from early 1941 to 1945. I am proud, very proud of those four and a half years.

Early Friday morning, September 22nd, I awakened with a severe rash and itching over my entire body. At that time, I had been taking an antibiotic for a couple of days, and it was determined by the doctor who saw me at the Veterans Hospital that I was experiencing a reaction to the antibiotic.

However, at that time, I didn't know what was going on, so I inquired at the front office of the Radisson Hotel and was directed to contact personnel in Room #429. There I met one of the finest and kindest individuals...a volunteer, who without any waste of time, made arrangements with the Veterans Hospital and then took me there. The volunteer's name is Jerry Pershica and I want to thank him for his great help and thank also those in the 45th who arranged for such service.

**KENNETH L. BENALLY, #198, ROAD 6700, WATERFLOW,
NM 87421**

★★★★★★★★★★

In the February 1995 issue of the Division News I read a letter from Milton Walzer who was a medic during the Korean War and mentioned the wounding of COL Harry W. Hughes who served in that war as CO, 3rd Bn, 179th Infantry.

I wondered if this was the same Harry W. Hughes who was CO of Company A, 179th Infantry during World War II? I joined Company A at Fort Devens, MA and went overseas with the unit.

I remember Harry Hughes with much respect and affection. He was wounded several times and never left the front. I can remember bandages on several parts of his body.

He was instrumental in my receiving the Silver Star when the 45th Division saved the beachhead at Salerno and also in select-

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ing me as the first man to rotate back to the states from Company A.

WARREN MENDEZ, 117 N. CORBIN ST. HOLLY, MI 48442

★★★★★★★★★★

I was assigned to the 45th Division at Camp Polk in early 1951. Joined Company K, 179th Infantry as a Platoon Leader of 1st Platoon. On to Hokkaido, Japan then Korea in December 1951. On line 2 January to 5 February 52; then 26 February-8 April 52. Guerilla hunt 20 Mar 542 and back on line 29 March. Wounded and evacuated 22 May 52. I had the honor of serving with a great bunch of men. Maybe they are members and or know others whereabouts.

There were serious battles in June 52, so I would like to know how they came through. I hope to make a reunion soon. The 45th Division News is a great publication.

I am sure there are too many names to print, but if you can get someone to research the membership list I will pay for their time. I am told the museum is good. Enclosed is a small token to help maintain the history.

DONALD P. MCCLURE, 4901 OAKMONT, CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78413

★★★★★★★★★★

I had the privilege of attending the dedication of the Korean War Memorial in July. I met many Thunderbirds at the ceremonies, many times I responded to "Hey Thunderbird". My two daughters were with me and at the end of the day they had an understanding of the camaraderie that is the trademark of the Thunderbird Spirit.

Senator Patrick Leahy, our Senator from Vermont hosted a reception for Korean Veterans in his office. The guest of honor was Frank Gaylord, a fellow Vermonter, who was the sculptor of the 19 statues in the memorial. Senator Leahy has entered into the Congressional Record the enclosed statement that I would like to share with the Association.

Many books have been written about the Korean War that are significant in their lack of reference to the 45th Division. Today 7 September 1995 Frank Gaylord was guest speaker at our Rotary Club and he assured me that he did not forget the 45th. Underneath the Poncho on the right shoulder of the BAR man is a Thunderbird Patch. I assured Frank that I would pass the word.

CJ "MIKE" COATES, 7 PINE CREST CIRCLE, WILLISTON, VT 05495

★★★★★★★★★★

In 1948 I joined my brother, Ted, in Headquarters Company, 1st BN, 179th Infantry Regiment in Clinton, OK. During the Korean War I was the Battalion Message Center Chief. Many of us in the unit who were mobilized in 1950 still live in this area. Periodically former members from around the nation stop on their way west on I-40 and we have an informal get-together.

The enclosed membership application will convert my current status to a Life Membership.

CURTIS R. MALOY, 515 NORTH 6TH STREET, CLINTON, OK 7360

★★★★★★★★★★

Thanks for your prompt action in forwarding the membership cards and decals to be passed out at the dedication of the Korean War Memorial. We could have used three times that many. We finally ended up just giving out the mailing address of the 45th Infantry Division Association.

It was very emotional time for this 45th veteran. I met three

veterans from Hawaii that were in the 180th Infantry at the same time that I was a member.

Thank you again for making a lot of people happy.

BILLY JOHNSON, 2416 KIMBERLY DRIVE, FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28306

★★★★★★★★★★

I attended the dedication and muster in Washington, DC and was also in the parade with other veterans of the 45th Infantry Division. It was all very exciting, however, I failed to see any of my old comrades.

HAROLD LIAS, 138 MASON STREET, WESTFIELD, PA 16950

★★★★★★★★★★

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew SGT Frederick Arthur Brown, Company C, 179th Infantry, KIA in the Vosges during October/November 1944. He was reported to have been killed when entering enemy territory.

Family members seek anyone who knew him or knows how his unit was deployed during the period of time around his death, for the purpose of using information in writing family history.

RUTH NORTON, 7399 HARBOR GLENN, STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30087

★★★★★★★★★★

Just a short note to inform you that Company C, 179th Infantry Korea, held a reunion in Topeka, KS 6-8 June 1995 with 35 members in attendance. It was resolved at the reunion that the 1996 reunion would be held in conjunction with the national Reunion in Oklahoma City.

JACK ISLER, 68367 PASEO REAL, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92234

★★★★★★★★★★

I picked up an application at the Korean War Memorial Ceremony. I have been wondering about any reunions that would include Korean War Veterans. I also would like to receive possible information concerning the present locations of any of my buddies from Korea.

I served from June 1952 to May 1953 with Combat Intelligence of 2nd Battalion, 179th Infantry. It would be great to contact some of that group.

ANTHONY BRODNIAK, 13 STEVENSON STREET, PARLIN, NJ 08859-1615

★★★★★★★★★★

It was a great pleasure to meet and thank you personally for the article on Bill Brandenburg. The association did a superb job putting together the 50th reunion and all are to be commended.

The following article by Bobby Lamm, one of our own, was published in the 24 September edition of the Dallas Morning News:

KOREAN WAR REUNION

Having just attended a gathering of my Korean era infantry unit, I read with a great deal of interest Jim Wright's column about the reunion of the Marines who fought at the Chosin Reservoir "Chosen to die at Chosin, they triumphed". People who served together in an endeavor such as the Korean War form a special closeness that cannot be easily understood, or fully appreciated, by those who were not there.

At our reunion of the 45th Infantry Division, it wasn't unusual to see a 65-year-old's eyes "tear" up as he talked about a friend lost in combat more than 40 years ago. It was even more common, however, to see smiles and hear laughter as we remembered those same friends, not as they died, but as they lived.

The Korean War Memorial represents a greatful nations's best effort to honor the dead from that war. But maybe a greater honor for those men is that, even after all these year, their friends still speak their names and remember how they were. What an honor it was to have served with them.

**SUBMITTED BY: JOHN D. POPE, 12634 HIGH MEADOW DR,
DALLAS, TX 75244-7236**

★★★★★★★★★★

I am writing in hopes that you can furnish me the address of the Chilocco Indian School. I joined Company C, 180th Infantry at Fort Devens after basic training at Camp Croft, SC.

I served with Company C until I was wounded during the Southern France Campaign.

I am enclosing the name and address of a former member of the 45th Division that I met in Sudbury, MA on 14 August 1995. The town was celebrating VJ day. I noticed this individual had a Thunderbird on his cap and since I am wheel chair bound, I asked my wife to speak with him. His name is Vincent Stigliana who lives at 9 Lincoln Street in Maynard, MA 01754. He was a member of Company E, 157th Infantry and served in Sicily and Italy prior to his capture by the German Army.

I am now wheel chair bound and would appreciate hearing from any of my buddies with whom I served.

RICHARD R. VOGHT, 310 POTTER, FRAMINGHAM, MA 01701

(Editors Note: The Chilocco Indian School is no longer in existence)

★★★★★★★★★★

My first active duty as a navy Ensign after preliminary naval gunfire training was in early 1943 when I along with 8 other Navy Ensigns reported for duty with the 45th Division at Camp Pickett, VA. This was in advance of the "Husky" Campaign in Sicily. We each were assigned to Battery Commanders and trained with Infantry Battalions. I was assigned to a Battalion in the 179th Infantry commanded by Lt. Col Taylor. My battery commander was Captain McCain (I'm not sure of the spelling) My counter part was 2 Lt. Mort Garber of Battery C, 160th FA Bn.

This was all new for navy gunfire to be spotted by either the Ensign or his army partner. Both of us had 4 or 5 assigned from the Battery to function with the Infantry in the initial phase of the amphibious landing.

I had many friends during my temporary assignment with the 45th. Our landing was made with ease but far from the designated area. We moved out to locate the front areas. I remember my radio man by the name of Cooper and another in the group named Kelly. The second morning the infantry was moving toward Comiso Air Field when ground fire became very severe. I remember a Captain Bex who was leading while I was looking for targets for our naval guns. The area was under mortar and machine gun fire and I was hit in the face and that was my end.

I later recovered and was assigned sea duty aboard OBB TEXAS. I returned to sea duty and was assigned to the "TEXAS" and saw Mort Garber, Col John Embry and many other 45th Division veterans at Naples, Italy preparing for the invasion of Southern France.

I sure hope someone can identify my ramblings. I would like to hear from them.

**WALTER R. CLOUGH, 2314 LARK LANE SARASOTA, FL
34231**

★★★★★★★★★★

I noticed in a recent newspaper article that all members of a unit in the 302nd Regiment of the 94th Division received a belated award of the Bronze Star for combat action during World War II.

The awards were made by President Kennedy in 1962.

It would be nice if all whom participated at the Anzio Beachhead would get a Bronze Star for that engagement. I wrote to my New Hampshire Senators and Congressmen last week to see if this can be possible.

I don't know if the 45th tried this effort and failed. All I'm told is that we received an extra battle star for the Anzio campaign.

I enjoy reading the 45th Division News. Keep up the good work.

LOUIS P. LONGVAL, P.O. BOX 152, LEMPSTER, NH 03606

★★★★★★★★★★

My name was James Frank Robinson (changed to Roby in 1979). In 1951, I was drafted from my home (Atlantic City, NJ) at Camp Kilmer and became one of the chosen ones to take basic training in Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. We were assigned to Korea from there, but we had a leave stateside prior to going. We were responsible to be back at Camp Stoneman (San Francisco) after 7 days, plus travel time, then went to Korea from there.

I served in Company G, 179th Infantry from March until August 1952, then attended the School of Standards for a radio code/ operator course, then returned to Hq Co 2nd Bn until I rotated home in March 1953. My job was Radio Chief and we had the finest group of people you would ever want to meet. One was Green Good (he always said, "Good grass grows green". Alexander from the Virgin Islands, others were John Julian, Marshall, Fields, Beasley and an Italian from New York. Our battalion commander was Major Norton. For being in the Infantry I had quite a bit of sea time, 44 days in all.

I went back on active duty in May 1959, spent a few months at Fort Devens, MA then went into the regular army and attended Radar Repair at Fort Monmouth and then was assigned to Redstone Arsenal, AL until December 1965 when I went off active duty and went back to work on the same job as a civilian. I fully retired in April 1993 and now live in Birmingham, AL.

ROBY ROBINSON, 7924 7TH AVENUE SOUTH, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35206-1084.

★★★★★★★★★★

Heavy Mortar Company, 180th Infantry Regiment has been having a company reunion since 1978. I have acted as correspondent for that unit for a number of years and have a reasonably up to date list of names and addresses for the men of the unit.

I retired as a CW4 after 37 years, 10 months and 8 days served in the Navy (WWII), Army, National Guard and Army Reserve and have been back in Sulphur, OK for the last 9 years.

I am sending a report of our reunion this year and an up to date memorial list and you may use any part of it you desire.

Our commander during the Korean War was John M. Townsley. He and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary 12 August 1995.

LUTHER B. STEPHENS, P.O. BOX 317, SULPHUR, OK

★★★★★★★★★★

I am writing in hopes of finding someone who remembers my father Shane O'Connell. He served in the 189th FA BN, during the Korean War in 1952-1954. Some may remember him because he likes to take movies of people in candid moments.

I did not have much contact with my father prior to his death 4 years ago, so I have recently been doing some research to obtain his service records and any other information about his life in Korea. He suffered from sever Post Trauma Syndrome in the last 25 years of his life.

I attended the Korean War Memorial Dedication in Washington,

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(Letters to the Editor cont'd from page 5)

DC hoping to meet someone from the 45th Division, but I did not see them at all. I am very happy that there will finally be a memorial for those who served in Korea-it was long overdue.

I would be grateful if you could point me in the direction of a way I could find anyone who may have served with my father. Please forward any information to the following address.

**RENEE O'CONNELL, 403 ALTAMONT CIRCLE,
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902**

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I landed in Inchon, Korea in March 1983 and was assigned to Heavy Mortar Company 180th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division until the colors came home. I was a telephone lineman and forward observer. When the 45th Division was reassigned to the US, I was reassigned to the Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Division.

I was told when I joined the 7th Division that I was to receive a Silver Star for laying lines in enemy territory. We were moving around and nothing more was told to me. I would like to find out if you could help me. I would appreciate it.

**CHARLES R. BAIRD, 77798 MIDDLE ROAD, ROME, NY
13440**

(EDITORS NOTE: We do not possess any personnel or combat records pertaining to the Korean War).

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I served with Company E, 180th Infantry during the Korean War. After my return to civilian life I returned to my former employer W.T. Grant Company and completed training for store management. In 1955 I married Carole Sterling in Madison, WI. We have two daughters and one son. The daughters live in Arizona and our son lives in Illinois. In 1962 I purchased my first Ben Franklin store in Janesville, WI. I purchased my second store in 1977 and we operated both until 1984 when we sold them and I tried retirement. I found that I wasn't ready and decided to help a friend sell cars at a Chrysler dealership. After five years of that I was ready to retire again.

My wife is a tour escort for six months a year and we spend the other six months in our other home in Apache, Junction, AZ. My hobby is woodworking and I keep doing crafts for my wife and helping my son build therapy kits.

**CHARLES W. LEARNED, JR. 3718 WEST BASS CREEK
RD, BELOIT, WI 53511**

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Being a former member of the 189th FA BN, I thought the following information might be of interest to your association. During WWII I was a member of Combat Command R, 9th Armored Division which was responsible for capturing the town of Colditz, Germany. A German POW encampment was located in a castle near the town.

I visited Remagen, Germany this year for a 50th memorial commemorating our capture of the Ludendorf Bridge at Remagen. While there we were invited to participate in a memorial ceremony at Colditz which I could not attend, but did send some material for their reunion.

I received a list of officer prisoners at Colditz and noticed an officer LTC W. Schaefer. I could not help but wonder how they could have a prisoner from the 45th Division. I wrote to a friend Michael Booker to determine if he could tell me how a 45th Division officer could be in Colditz Prison. His response is as follows:

Dear Major Strange: Thank you for your letter of June 15, in

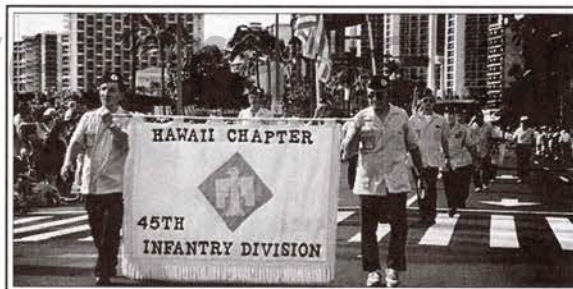
answer to my enquiries regarding the Forces that liberated Colditz in Eastern Germany. I appreciate how difficult over so many years that have passed since those fateful days, to be able to trace anyone still with us, who was present on any particular engagement.

I have been reasonably lucky, as far as the Infantry is concerned and in the past eight years or so, have learned more than I have in the 30 years of my study. It's just having that one lucky breakthrough.

You mentioned an officer from the 435th in Colditz. He arrived in December 1944 from another camp. It was whilst he was at the previous camp (Schubin) that an American Lieutenant had tried to stop a notice being put on the board by a guard. The Colonel assisted his colleague in trying to do this and they were both promptly arrested. However, what they didn't realize was that obstructing a German Soldier to do his duty, carried the death penalty. They were both sentenced to death and Schaefer was sent to Colditz for the sentence to be carried out. He appealed, but the appeal was rejected personally by Hitler. At Colditz was a brilliant lawyer named 'Black Campbell'. He succeeded in putting forward so many arguments that the sentence was delayed long enough for the Americans to liberate Colditz and save the Colonels life. The Lawyer in question is now Lord Campbell and regularly attends the Colditz Reunions. Michael Booker, 50 Edgehill Road, Mitcham, Surrey. CR4 2HU, England

**GLEN L. STRANGE, 208 S. 1ST STREET, TONKAWA, OK
74653-5517**

THUNDERBIRDS ATTEND KOREAN MEMORIAL DEDICATION



Several members of the Hawaii Chapter of the association attended the dedication of the Korean War Memorial. Our five day visit to Washington, DC was part of a sixteen day east coast tour motoring from Canada to New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

We were not able to see the memorial immediately after the dedication because of the thousands of people in attendance, however, we walked the mile and a half from our hotel to the memorial and were able to view it at our leisure. It was most impressive, especially the "wall" with its hundreds of images. Of the five days we were in Washington, I visited the memorial four times fearing that it would be the first and last time I would be visiting the memorial.

The afternoon of the day before we were to leave Washington, my good friend George Matsunaga told me he was not at peace with himself even though he visited the memorial four times like he did. He did not feel satisfied somehow, and thought that there was something he needed to do before we left. I asked him what he wanted to do. He replied "We need to leave something behind at the memorial". Late that afternoon we bought two large potted plants and with our wives caught a taxi to the memorial. There were several hundred people there, and after maneuvering our way through the crowd got to the end of the wall which joined with the

reflecting pool. there under the bold etched words of "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE" we placed the flowers. We stepped back, saluted and turned and walked away, not looking back. Once out of sight of the memorial I asked Matsunuaga, "Feel better, George?" He looked at me, nodded, and said "we can go home now".

LOUIS BALDOVI, 46-150 Nona Loop, Kaneohe, HI 96744.

Last week I had the honor and privilege of attending the dedica-



tion of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. While there I had the opportunity to meet several veterans who served in various units/organizations of the 45th Division.

Many veterans attended the dedication, however, I am sorry more were unable to observe this fine memorial. I personally feel this memorial may be the most magnificent, impressive memorial ever dedicated to all deserving veterans, especially those who did not return. I strongly suggest that if any veteran has the opportunity to visit Washington, that they do so and visit this memorial. I have enclosed a photograph of my family, wife, two daughters and grandson taken with the memorial in the background.

I served with Battery C, 171 FA BN in Korea from May 1952 to May 1953 and would like to hear from anyone who remembers me.

JOHN A. CARUSO, 90 Pocahontas Drive, Warwick, RI 02888, 401-463-8059

LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

I was a member of Headquarters Company, 2nd BN, 179th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War and would like to hear from anyone with whom I served.

DAVE A. NEUNER, 1233 SW 2ND TERRACE, POMPANO BEACH, FL 33069

★★★★★★★★★

I would like to correspond with anyone who was in Company A or Headquarters Company 180th Infantry. Captain Kidd was the

company commander. In September 1953 when the 45th Division was returned to the United States I was reassigned to the 76th Truck Company a separate army unit. I arrived in Korea in April 1953.

AL RATNER, 156-46 86TH STREET, HOWARD, BEACH, NY 11414

★★★★★★★★★

When the 1st Cavalry and the 45th Infantry did the 'change/change' in December 1952, I was transferred from Company L, 5th Cavalry Regiment to Company L, 180th Infantry Regiment. I would like to hear from fellow thunderbirds who remember the May Day 1952 ambush. Company L 180th Infantry was out on an ambush assignment and the Chinese ambushed our patrol.

DAN CROWE, 2361 HIWASSEE DRIVE, KINGSPORT, TN 37664

★★★★★★★★★

I am searching for GI's from the Second Platoon, Company C, 157th Infantry during the post Reipertswiller period, January-May 1945. After the Siegfried Line, Ben Ewing served as Platoon Sergeant and Lt. James Penny as Platoon Leader. To date, fourteen of us have been located. We have a newsletter and plan to have our own reunion some day. We are especially looking for Lt. Eugene E. "Buck" Henneman (originally from Rice Lake, WI) and Loyd L. "Deacon" Goolsby from Gainesville, TX. Please contact me if you have any information about Second Platoon men.

DAN P. DOUGHERTY, 3 MANN DRIVE, KENTFIELD, CA 94904-1033, 415/454-2454

REUNION NOTICES

45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION: 19-21 September 1996, The Radisson Inn, 401 Southe Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK 73108

REUNION REPORTS

COMPANY B, 179TH INFANTRY "KOREA". Held their fourth reunion in conjunction with the 50th Annual Reunion of the 45th Division Association. There were 51 members and guests who attended the reunion this year. 46 individuals attended the Saturday evening banquet to listen to one of our former Platoon Sergeants, Bill Gustafson, who was the featured speaker for the

(Reunion Reports cont'd on back page)

(Reunion Reports cont'd from page 7)

evening. We have so far located 135 former members and 65 have attended one or more reunions, some have attended all reunions held to this date.

A total of 35 people attended a trip to the Murrah Federal Building bomb site in Oklahoma City and El Reno, OK where Company "B" originated and their mobilization site in 1950. An evening meal at the Officers Club at Tinker AFB was also well attended. A visit in mass to the 45th Division Museum was made and a Memorial Service was conducted for those we know who have died following their service discharge was held Sunday Morning before departure. All expressed favorable comments on the reunion and plans are to hold our next reunion in conjunction with the 45th Division Association Annual Reunion 19-21 September 1996 in Oklahoma City. At this time our current membership in the 45th Division Association is 55. POC Bill Mac Swain, 3474 Bandera Road, Fort Worth, TX 76116 (817)244-0706.

IT IS DUES PAYING TIME

If your mailing label on this Newsletter indicates 1995, the above heading pertains to you. This indicates that your dues to the 45th Infantry Division Association will expire 31 DECEMBER 1995.

Payment of multiple year dues reduces the workload for our volunteer staff in the out years and also reduces your per year cost as indicated on the membership application which has been included in this newsletter for your convenience.

If you are in this category and do not renew your membership prior to 31 March 1996 you will be dropped from the membership roll of the association.

LET'S KEEP THE THUNDERBIRD ALIVE

45th Divi sion News

Published four times yearly by the 45th Infantry Division Association to support the work of the association and the 45th Division Museum.

Lonnie M. Bray **President**

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Wm. Rex Wilson **Secretary/Editor**

Louis A. Scott **Associate Editor**

Neal E. Dodds **Treasurer**

Robert L. Henthorn **Accounting & Records**

Eva Lou Moon **Recorder**

Address news contributions and other correspondence to Editor, 45th Division News, 45th Infantry Division Association, 2145 N.E. 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111.

DO NOT SEND ITEMS THAT MUST BE RETURNED!

MEMBERSHIPS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

LIFE

Funk, Richard K.
Hayes, Richard C.
Maloy, Curtis R.
Meyer, Thomas E.
Moffett, Jesse A.

Overly, Kenneth L.
Reisig, James T.
Roger, Peter Paul H.
Schindler, Alfred E.
Stigliano, Joseph J.

Stimmell, Thomas Eugene
Thomason, Herbert
Wheat, Ronnie D.

TEN YEAR

Barnes, Bobby Joe
Breen, John L.
Briscoe, Francis E.
Brodniak, Anthony J.
Cole, John C.
Copping, Richard B.
Davis, Starland S.
Flatt, Shirley K.
Garside, Leonard J.
Gillespie, Fred R.

Hamilton, Ben H.
Hinrichsen, Carl E.
Johannesen, Clovis J.
Jones, Leonard M.
Juarez, Humberto
Lacroix, Leo A.
Liles, Samuel R.
Mac Swain, William F.
Mast, Jackie Lee
Ordemann, Harry M.

Ortiz, Al
Parrish, John W.
Sasser, Norman Duane
Smith, David C.
Suchan, Edward A.
Syrjanen, Ray M.
Whiting, John B.
Wiesner, Eugene F.

FOUR YEAR

Adams, Robert M.
Allen, Jack C.
Andrews, Frank J. Sr.
Arganbright, Richard J.
Avant, Jack E.
Ayers, Roy D.
Bagley, Guy M.
Bailey, Harry D.
Baird, Charles R.
Balise, Kenneth R.
Bathurst, Marshall L.
Bekampis, Albert
Bell, Roy R.
Bomer, William J.
Bradshaw, Leo M.
Brandon, Merle J.
Bridges, George H.
Briggs, Larry
Brink, John L.
Burfield, John W.
Burke, Al
Burke, Robert G.
Burks, Larry R.
Cahill, Vincent E.
Carlson, Jack S.
Carman, George L.
Carter, James P.
Carter, Paul D.
Chambless, Melvin L., Sr.
Clark, James W.
Clarke, James
Claus, George H.
Clough, W. Russell
Collins, Bill M.
Colson, Ernest B., Jr.
Conner, Howard W.
Cooper, Jack D.

Countryman, Sam
Czajkowski, Edward J.
DeBauche, Ronald R.
Dennis, James L.
Detelsen, John W.
Dinsmore, John H.
Donahue, Daniel H.
Dussault, Emile G.
Dickerson, Wayne
Eberle, Wilfred
Ehmann, Howard G.
Epperson, Dwight E.
Famesi, Alfred R.
Flandt, Robert F.
Fox, Richard
Frazier, William B.
Gelomino, Louis C.
Gibson, Donald J.
Graham, Earl D.
Hamilton, Silas J.
Harrell, J.C.
Harris, Roy E.
Harris, Rufus
Hart, Ira D.
Harvieux, Bernard G.
Hayes, James B.
Healey, Hugh J.
Hefner, W. W.
Hewett, Jim
Hill, R. Herbert
Hoke, Donald S.
Hurst, William P.
Jones, Franklin
Jones, John B.
Johnson, Chris A.
Johnson, Jim H.
Johnson, Robert L.

Johnson, Stanley M.
Kalabza, John
Kelly, Andrew J.
Kelly, Francis J.
Kelso, Eugene C.
King, James D.
Lambeth, Nickay J.
Lancaster, William C., Jr.
Learned, Charles G., Jr.
Lias, Harold G.
Lien, Thelmer
Linder, Robert L.
Lopez, Harman A.
Luger, Al
Malone, Frank C.
Martin, Herschel L.
Martin, Paul D.
McAtee, O. Wayne
McConathy, Billy Don
McKissick, Marvin M.
Medling, Donald E.
Migala, Theodore E.
Mighenfelder, Robert L.
Moore, Kenneth M.
Mrvos, George
Neimeyer, John C. Jr.
Neuner, David A.
Nickell, Tom C.
Palacek, Marvin A.
Payne, Ira B.
Pazik, Henry F.
Perino, Bruno D.
Perfiss, Donald
Peron, Steve
Pline, Louis M.
Psihas, George P.
Randel, James E.

Raymond, Harry
Richard, Omer A. "Al"
Ricker, John H.
Riddle, Bob
Rista, Donald A.
Robinson, Roby
Rocha, Robert R.
Rode, Edward
Rowe, William W.
Ruehs, Mark
Ruello, Vincent
Rumbaugh, Roy F.
Russell, William H.
Ryker, W. E.
Schultz, Robert
Siebrass, Harlan H.
Smith, Robert L.
Sokolow, Arthur D.
Sproles, James B., Sr.
Stevens, Charles D.
Summers, Alan
Swango, Benjamin E.
Tataro, Mario J.
Thompson, Lew C.
Trask, Frank R.
Vinson, Marydeth V.
Voght, Richard R.
Werthman, Samuel R.
Wetzel, Howard
Williams, Elijah S.
Williams, Guy
Wilson, Edwin Leon
Wittrock, Neil A.
Wolfe, Clifton E.
Wolfe, Robert J.
York, Harvey D.

TAPS

Archibald, Charles B.
Bahner, Stanley T.
Beebe, Jesse V. Jr.
Boosa, John Russell

Daugherty, Loren L.
Dunnington, Robert C.
Durkee, Donald L.
Gildhouse, Easter Earl

Robertson, James L.
Schaner, Gilbert
Sommers, Robert J.
Weishuhn, Harold L.